

7009 Woodland Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

June 28, 1999

5719 '99 JUN 30 P1:53

Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Re: Docket No. 98N-1038, "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

Dear Food and Drug Administration:

I am extremely concerned about the prospect of weakening the labeling requirements for irradiated food.

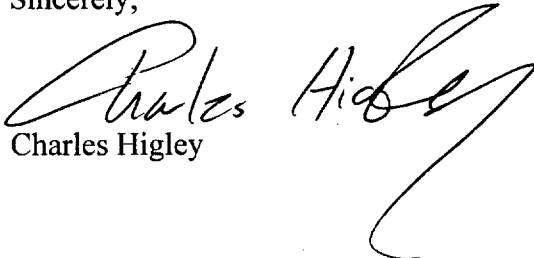
Any foods or their ingredients that have been treated by irradiation should be clearly labeled. A statement warning consumers that the product or its ingredients has been irradiated should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food as well as in the panel informing consumers of the product's ingredients and nutritional information. The statement should be accompanied by the "radura," the international symbol of irradiated food.

If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels, irradiation labels are required by the FDA to be truthful and not misleading. In my opinion, the terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be used instead of "pasteurization," which refers to a totally different process for treating foods. Irradiation is not pasteurization, thus any label that uses pasteurization to describe irradiation would mislead consumers.

The requirement for irradiation disclosure (both label and radura) should not expire at any time in the future. As long as foods are treated with radiation, they should be labeled as such.

Sincerely,

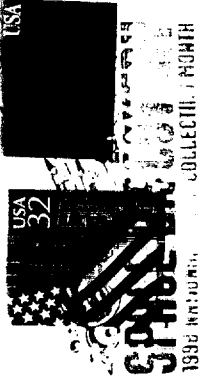


Charles Higley

98N 1038

C3089

Highway
7009 Woodland Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912



Food and Drug Administration
Pockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD

20852

20857/0001

